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Atty Dkt No. GP-303797/GM0428PUSP

Remarks

The Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action that was mailed September 13, 2005.

In this action, the Examiner has rejected claim 6 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 5, and has objected to claims 8, 10, 11 and 12 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. With the present amendments to claims 1, 6 and 8, these objections are believed to be overcome.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 8, 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, with regard to claim 8, each third member is incorrectly claimed to be a "ring gear". Appropriate correction has been made with the present amendment.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-2 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by Hayabuchi. Hayabuchi teaches a shared, long pinion (P3) between the first and second planetary gear sets (see Hayabuchi Figure 1), while the present invention does not include such a shared, long pinion, but rather implements a shared ring gear arrangement (24, 34) with separate pinion gears (37, 38, 27) as shown in Figures 2 and 4 of the present application. Accordingly, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite the second planetary gear set as being a compound planetary gear set with "pinion gears", and the first and second planetary gear sets being simple planetary gear sets "with pinion gears, wherein said pinion gears of said simple and compound planetary gear sets are separate from each other such that no pinion is shared by said simple and compound planetary gear sets" (underlining added). Accordingly, with this amendment, the rejection over Hayabuchi is believed to be overcome, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 also requires the "ring gear of said second planetary gear set being integrally connected with said ring gear of said first planetary gear set." This is the shared ring gear 24, 34 of Figures 2 and 4 which separately engages pinion gears (36, 27) of different planetary gear sets (20, 30). This structure is also not present in Hayabuchi.

The Examiner has further indicated that claims 3-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

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including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, with the present Amendment, claim 6 has been amended to recite the same limitations as the combination of original claims 1 and 3, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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